on page 98, line 24, after "subcutaneous fat", please delete "(figure 12)",

on page 98, line 25, after "in the liver", please delete "(figure 13)",

on page 99, line 18, after "(Figure", please delete "14" and add --12--,

on page 99, line 21, after "(Figure", please delete "14" and add --12--,

on page 99, line 31, after "(Figure", please delete "14" and add --12--,

on page 100, lines 18 and 19, after "(Figure", please delete "15A and 15B" and add --13A and 13B--,

on page 100, line 33, after "(Figures", please delete "16a, 16b and 16c" and add --14A, 14B and 14C--,

on page 102, lines 10 and 11, after "(Figure", please delete "17" and add --15--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-3, 6-10, 18-21, 61 and 62 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add the new claims 99-126 as herein indicated.

99. (New) Isolated or purified antibodies which are capable of reacting with a neurturin polypeptide with at least 65% identity to SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:7 or SEQ ID NO:8.

100. (New) The isolated antibodies of claim 99, wherein the antibodies are polyclonal.

101. (New) The isolated antibodies of claim 99, wherein the antibodies are monoclonal.

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102. (New) A method of preparing the antibodies of claim 99 comprising immunizing an animal with a polypeptide comprising at least a portion of the neurturin polypeptide.

103. (New) The method of claim 102, wherein the polypeptide comprises an oligopeptide that is a part of the neurturin polypeptide.

104. (New) The method of claim 103, wherein the oligopeptide is hydrophilic.

105. (New) The method of claim 103, wherein the oligopeptide amino acid sequence is conserved within the GDNF/neurturin subfamily.

106. (New) The method of claim 105, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises an amino acid sequence that is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:35, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:37, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:39, SEQ ID NO:40 and SEQ ID NO:41.

107. (New) A method for detecting the presence of a neurturin in a sample comprising combining the isolated or purified antibodies of claim 99 with the sample and determining whether the antibodies react with a neurturin.

108. (New) The method of claim 107, wherein the sample is obtained from a patient.

109. (New) The method of claim 108, wherein the patient is a human being.

110. (New) The method of claim 109, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of a blood sample and a tissue biopsy.

111. (New) The method of claim 107, wherein the sample is obtained from an *in vitro* culture of cells.

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112. (New) The method of claim 107, wherein the determination step comprises an assay selected from the group consisting of immunodiffusion, immunoelectrophoresis, immunochemical methods, binder-ligand assays, immunohistochemical techniques, agglutination and complement assays.

113. (New) The method of claim 112, further comprising antibodies coupled to a label selected from the group consisting of radionuclides, enzymes, fluorescers, chemiluminescers, enzyme substrates or co-factors, enzyme inhibitors, particles and dyes.

114. (New) The method of claim 113, wherein the assay is a radioimmunoassay or an enzyme immunoassay.

115. (New) The method of claim 114, wherein the assay is an enzyme-linked immunoassay or a fluorescent immunoassay.

116. (New) The method of claim 107, wherein the neurturin comprises an amino acid sequence of at least 65% identity to SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

117. (New) The method of claim 116, wherein the neurturin is SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

118. (New) A method for detecting the presence of a non-neurturin GDNF family member in a sample comprising combining the isolated or purified antibodies of claim 105 with the sample and determining whether the antibodies react with a non-neurturin GDNF family member.

119. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the sample is obtained from a patient.

120. (New) The method of claim 119, wherein the patient is a human being.

121. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein the sample is selected from a group consisting of a blood sample and a tissue biopsy.

122. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the sample is obtained from an *in vitro* culture of cells.

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123. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the determination step comprises an assay selected from the group consisting of immunodiffusion, immunoelectrophoresis, immunochemical methods, binder-ligand assays, immunohistochemical techniques, agglutination and complement assays.

124. (New) The method of claim 123, wherein the determination step further comprises antibodies coupled to a label selected from the group consisting of radionuclides, enzymes, fluorescers, chemiluminescers, enzyme substrates or co-factors, enzyme inhibitors, particles and dyes.

125. (New) The method of claim 124, wherein the assay is a radioimmunoassay or an enzyme immunoassay.

126. (New) The method of claim 125, wherein the assay is an enzyme-linked immunoassay or a fluorescent immunoassay.